

my privilege to commend Flower Mound Police Chief Kenneth Brooker and wish him well in his retirement and to represent the Town of Flower Mound in the U.S. House of Representatives.

HONORING PEARL STREET AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 11, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Pearl Street African Methodist Episcopal Church in Jackson, Mississippi. In 1865, Reverend Thomas W. Stringer organized Pearl Street African Methodist Episcopal Church. The first church was known as Foley Chapel, and Reverend Stringer served as pastor until Reverend James Ellsworth was appointed as pastor. The church was located on the corner of Clifton and Pearl Streets. About seventeen pastors served the church in its initial edifice, including Reverend Hugh Miller Foley, the pastor for whom Foley Chapel was named.

In 1898, Reverend James E. Carter, who had served as president of Shorter College in Arkansas, came to Mississippi and was assigned in 1899 as pastor. Under Reverend Carter's leadership, the name of the church was changed to Pearl Street African Methodist Episcopal Church, and a new edifice was built in 1902. The newly built church was on the corner of Clifton and Pearl Streets. Foley Chapel remained on the property as Foley Hall.

In 1956, Bishop W. W. Wright appointed Reverend G. R. Haughton to Pearl Street A.M.E. Church as pastor. During his pastorate, the city requested the property at Clifton and Pearl Streets for opening a new street. Reverend Haughton immediately focused members' attention on building Greater Pearl Street African Methodist Episcopal Church in another location at 925 West Pearl Street. A home at 1051 Deer Park Street was purchased for the new parsonage. Members began use of the new church in April 1961, and it was dedicated on April 30, 1961. Successors to Reverend G. R. Haughton include the following: Reverend Dr. George A. Sewell (1965–1967) and Reverend William Portis (1967–1974).

In October 1974, Reverend Thomas Benjamin Brown, Jr. was appointed as pastor of Pearl Street. He served as pastor for eight years. In 1976, during Reverend Brown's leadership of the church, the trustees purchased additional property around the church at 925 West Pearl Street. Also, the church sold the parsonage on Deer Park Street and purchased a home at 219 Claiborne Street as the new parsonage. Four years later, Reverend Brown kicked off his campaign for Bishopric on May 24, 1980 in his native Greenwood, Mississippi. Two years following the kick-off campaign, Bishop Cummings determined that perhaps Reverend Brown stood a better chance of winning the Bishopric if he were to run for the Bishop serving as pastor of Union Bethel, New Pearl Street. So in November 1982, Bishop Frank Curtis sent Reverend Brown to New Orleans as pastor of Union Bethel, and he sent Union Bethel's pastor,

Reverend Lorenzo G. Clarke to Pearl Street. Reverend Clarke was pastor of Pearl Street from November 1982–October 1985.

At the General Conference 1984, Bishop Donald George Kenneth Ming was assigned to the Eighth Episcopal District Bishop Ming appointed Reverend Johnny Barbour, Jr. as pastor of Pearl Street A.M.E. Church in October 1985. Reverend Barbour, Pearl Street's longest serving pastor, remained as pastor for 15 years. In 1987, under Reverend Barbour's spiritual leadership, the church moved from 925 West Pearl Street into a church edifice at 2519 Robinson Street (valued at 3.5 million dollars). During this same year, 1987, Mrs. Ruth Roseman Dease, dedicated church historiographer from 1958–1987. Shirley Hopkins Davis was privileged and honored to have worked with Mrs. Dease in typing the history, which she so competently recorded on a weekly basis. Following Mrs. Dease's death, Reverend Barbour appointed Ms. L'Dina Robinson as church historiographer.

Ten years following the purchase of the edifice at 2519 Robinson Street (1997), Reverend Johnny Barbour, Jr. and the officers and members burned the mortgage. The presiding bishop then was the Rt. Reverend Richard Allen Chappelle, Sr. Since the church has been purchased under Rt. Reverend Donald G. K. Ming's bishopric, Reverend Barbour invited Bishop Ming back to preach at the Mortgage Burning. Bishop Chappelle conducted the Mortgage Burning ceremony. Reverend Barbour had announced his candidacy for Secretary-Treasurer of the A.M.E. Sunday School Union at the General Conference 1996. So, he was campaigning for the office during this time. He remained pastor of progressive Pearl Street for several months after he was elected to the office at the General Conference 2000, in Cincinnati, Ohio.

During the General Conference 2000, the 8th Episcopal District was assigned Bishop Cornal Garnett Henning, Sr. whose father, Reverend H. W. Henning, had served as pastor of Pearl Street from 1940–41. Bishop Henning asked Reverend Barbour to remain pastor of Pearl Street until Planning Meeting in December 2000, and Reverend Barbour remained as pastor while carrying on his new General Officer position of Secretary-Treasurer of the Sunday School Union.

On December 2, 2000 the Rt. Reverend C. Garnett Henning, Sr. appointed the Reverend Dr. Samuel Boyd, Sr. as pastor of Pearl Street African Methodist Episcopal Church. Reverend Boyd had served as pastor of Historic St. James A.M.E. Church, New Orleans, LA for ten years. He preached as pastor of Pearl Street on December 3, 2000.

Pearl Street has a rich history of growth and development as a church family and community supporter. After 136 years, the church remains a stronghold and a source of spiritual empowerment for its members and the community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Pearl Street African Methodist Episcopal Church.

RECOGNIZING MR. VAL ARCHER

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 11, 2013

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation.

Whereas, a cool, calm, collected and very tenacious man, Mr. Val Archer was born April 13, 1929, raised in Chicago, Illinois and now resides in Conyers, Georgia; and

Whereas, during WWII at the tender age of 15, and even in the face of segregation and discrimination, out of a strong sense of patriotism and love of country, he answered the call to service in the U.S. military; and

Whereas, Mr. Archer served honorably in the U.S. Army Air Corps, the United States Air Force and as a member of the renowned Tuskegee Airmen, a unit with a strong sense of honor and duty who performed with great precision in combating the enemy in the European theater; and

Whereas, he saw active duty in Korea, Japan, Guam, the Marshall Islands and Europe where he was always proud of the performance of his fellow Tuskegee Airmen who proved beyond a doubt that they were there to excel; and

Whereas, he served with great distinction as the President of the Atlanta Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc and he is the recipient of The Congressional Gold Medal, the nation's highest civilian honor; and

Whereas, this model citizen continues sharing his time, talents and great wisdom with young people urging them to not drift or follow the crowd, to get an education, practice self-respect, integrity and responsibility to themselves, their family and their country; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Mr. Val Archer for his outstanding leadership and service to the citizens in the 4th District, the state of Georgia and the nation; now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim May 18, 2013 as Mr. Val Archer Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 18th day of May, 2013.

HONORING THE ROTARY CLUB OF JOLIET

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 11, 2013

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Rotary Club of Joliet for selflessly working for 100 years to improve communities in Illinois. The organization's motto of "Service Above Self" inspires its members to provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards, and promote good will in the world. The Joliet Rotary Club has over 130 members and is part of Rotary International. It was established in 1910 as the Study Club, and it became the first Rotary club in a city with less than 75,000 residents.

Joliet Rotarians learned the best practices of service, and went on to help establish new Rotary clubs in surrounding communities over the next decades. They participated in the